

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to FORCE their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This unprecedented move would be direct electioneering by a corporate media giant -- and against federal election law.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair seems to be serving exclusively their own interest in this case. In April Sinclair ORDERED seven of its ABC-affiliated stations not to air a "Nightline" segment that featured a reading of the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq.

Sinclair's actions illustrate clearly why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.